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**Montana Pupil Transportation
News and Updates
March 2002**



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A Monthly Newsletter Published by Pupil Transportation, School Budgeting and Accounting Division

CHECK OUT OUR NEW TRANSPORTATION WEB SITE

Go to www.opi.state.mt.us select <Pupil Transportation> from the drop down menu of Programs and Services of OPI. From the new web site, you can email the director, link to MAPT, read the proposed standards, catch the news, and check out other state directors and activities, read the law, access the Transportation Handbook issued in 2001. If there is anything that you would like to see on the site, please feel free to email me with your suggestions.

I would like to thank Nica Carte, who designed the page and Betsy Nordell, who set it up for us. The design allows us to easily update, add and change things, as we need to.

Watch for new transportation forms to be added soon.

Since You Asked

We bought a new bus and it was delivered this week. Can we put it on the route in the morning?

Administrative Rule 10.7.110 Standards for School Buses, Section (5) says, "Buses that are placed in operation after the school semester has begun must be inspected and approved by the Montana Highway Patrol before the vehicle is operated on the established route."

When are we going to get the transportation reimbursement?

First semester reimbursements are sent out in March. Second semester reimbursements are sent out in June. The Office of Public Instruction sends the transportation payment to the County Treasurer for deposit to the district's account. Payment advice to the treasurer, county superintendent and school district is included in the mass mailing that is sent out on the 25th of March and June.

MAPT Conference Information

The Montana Association for Pupil Transportation is sending out the registration forms for the June 19-21, 2002 Conference to be held at the Belgrade High School and Special Events Center. The conference title is "Driving to Protect You in 2002." Registration is due to Linda Michel at

MAPT by June 1st. The registration fee is \$70 if paid by June 1.

Session speakers and topics look very interesting. Be sure to register for the Jackpot Road-e-o. The fee for the Road-e-o is just \$5.00 per driver.

Belgrade Transportation Director Doug Kellie has done a great job as On-site Chairman. The Steering Committee is committed to having an educational and fun conference. Sign up early and get the discount.

Driver and School Bus Aid Nominations Requested

Enclosed with this mailing are the forms to nominate your favorite driver, bus aid, and special needs driver for the Montana Highway Patrol Driver of the Year, Montana Highway Patrol School Bus Aid of the Year and Q'Straints Special Needs Driver of the Year. Please be sure to nominate someone from your school transportation program for these awards.

PROMPTLY RETURN TRAINING VIDEOS

IMPORTANT DATES

March 25, 2002 Transportation Aid Reimbursement made to Counties for distribution to schools

March 25, 2002 OPI mails registration forms for June MAPT Conference to transportation community

April 25, 2002 Second Semester TR-5's and TR-6's mailed from the OPI to districts

May 10, 2002 Second Semester TR-5's and TR-6's due from districts to county superintendent

May 24, 2002 Second Semester TR-5's and TR-6's due from county superintendents to the OPI

June 19, 20, 21, 2002 MAPT Conference in Belgrade, Montana

Update driver certificates, bus inspection forms, route information and contracts regularly.